(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the number of such corridors which are emanating from Delhi and Madhya Pradesh respectively;

(c) what action Government propose to take to achieve the target of expressways within the time frame;

(d) whether it is also a fact that there are 14 major National and State Highways where traffic density is expected to increase to 25000 passenger car units and above by 2000 AD; and

(e) if so, what action Government propose to take to tackle the density of traffic on these highways by the turn of the century ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c) A study completed under the aegis of Asian Development Bank has made recommendation that this country would need an Expressly network of about 10,020 kilometres by the year 2015 A.D. Based on various assumptions, four corridors emanating from Delhi and three passing through Madhya Pradesh have been tentatively identified in the Study. The construction programme of Expressways, which would require large outlays, would mainly depend on funds available for the purpose and the relative priorities of different corridors based on detailed techno-economic feasibility studies.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. As per current trend of traffic, the density of passenger car units would reach 25,000 on a number of sections on National Highways in the country by 2000 A. D. However, during the 8th Plan period, the outlay provided for Central Sector Roads Programme amounting to Rs. 2600 crores, is sufficient mainly to meet the needs of the on-going development works on the National Highways. In view of paucity of funds, the present strategy is to attend to removal of deficiencies in the system by strengthening the existing weak pavements and widening to two lanes or four lanes respectively in selected sections of medium and high density corridors of National Highways within the limitation of overall availability of funds.

Wearing of Helmets by Two Wheeler Drivers and Pillion Riders and Safety Belts by Car Drivers

1557. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to notify rules making it compulsory to two wheeler drivers and pillion riders to wear helmets and to car drivers to wear safety belts as part of the road safety measures;

(b) if so, by when suitable amendments in the relevant Acts are proposed to be made; and

(c) to what extent it would help in reducing deaths due to road accidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) A proposal to amend Section 129 of the Motor Vehicles Act so as to make compulsory wearing of helmets by two-wheeler drivers and pillion riders is under consideration of the Government. A proposal to make mandatory the fitment of seat-belts in passenger cars manufactured from a notified date is also under consideration of the Government.

(b) Proposals are being finalised in consultation with the various concerned agencies and at this stage no definite date of notification/implementation can be indicated.

(c) Government believe that the proposed changes will reduce fatal accidents to a considerable degree.

Organisations port trust etc. functioning without Chairman

1558. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the organisations, Port Trust, Public Sector units and Authorities under his Ministry which are presently functioning without duly appointed Chairman; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to fill up such posts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) The information is as under :

Sl. No.	Name of Organisation	Steps taken to fill up the post
1.	2.	3.
1.	Bombay Port Trust	Proposal is under process.
2.	Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust. . .	Do.
3.	Madras Port Trust.	Do.
4.	New Mangalore Port Trust. . .	Government approval for regular appointment to the post has been received, but the same is pending due to the Court case filed by Deputy Chairman, New Mangalore Port Trust.
5.	National Highway Authority of India. .	The future of National Highway Authority of India is under consideration. As yet there is no proposal to fill up the post for the present.

Flouting of Pollution norms by State Transport Authority

1559. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Transport Authority is flouting the norms laid down in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1989 in regard to control of pollution caused by diesel vehicles; and

(b) if so, what action is being taken against the said Authority for violation of the rules ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Involvement of Private Sector in the Expansion of Ports

1560. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD :
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to involve private sector in the expansion plant of different ports; and

(b) if so, what are the proposals drawn in this regard and response of the private sector thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Major Port Trusts are advertising and have received offers about the facilities where private participation is required. The private sector has shown interest in development and operation of berths, container terminals and dry dock facilities.

Permits to NRI's for Plying Deluxe Buses in Delhi

1561. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH :
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARI :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to issue permits or licences to NRI's to ply deluxe buses along inner and outer ring road in Delhi, with a view to meet the commuter's requirements and essing out of over crowding in buses on these and other linked roads;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of deluxe buses to be so permitted and the terms and conditions thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken so far in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT